

# Small Fruit Update



Disseminating information for the [Washington Red Raspberry Commission](#).

## March 3, 2003

The cooler weather this last week slowed plant development down some. This week should continue the trend with colder, wet weather and low snow levels later in the week. The ground is being worked for new plantings.

The **Willamette** raspberry variety is no longer going to be available from either Sakuma Brothers or Northwest Plants. It has served the industry well but they say there just isn't enough demand for it anymore.

**Archives of past weekly updates**, going back three years, are in the news & calendar section of our web site ([www.peerbolt.com](http://www.peerbolt.com)). You'll also find a link to the **Cold Storage reports** on all berries, posted by Rufus La Lone, and Joe Defrancesco's **Pesticide Listings** for small fruit crops, updated in January.

**Fertilizer:** The first applications usually go on blueberries and caneberries between mid-March and the end of the month in the South.

### Disease Update:

**1) Mummyberries** are just beginning to sprout in Oregon and Southern Washington blueberry fields. Now is the time to plan your control strategy. Scout for last year's berries on the ground and look for mummyberry fruiting cups. The overwintering mummyberries send up a mushroom like fruiting cup at this time of year ([click here for picture of fruiting cups](#)). It releases spores that land on new vegetative growth, infecting it.

**2) Phytophthora Root Rot** in raspberries. Ridomil (metalaxyl) can go on now to help control root rot. Apply it just before or during rain so it doesn't have a chance to volatilize.

### Insect Update

**1) Raspberry Crown Borer treatment:** If you've had problems with borers, March is the time to treat with an insecticide drench. Treatments should be made for two successive years.

**2) Winter moth** in blueberries. Time to start scouting for winter moth. Last year the larvae didn't show up in significant numbers until early April. ([Click here for pictures](#)). When scouting, you should see a small amount of webbing tightly holding a dying flower-bud-cluster together with a small green caterpillar feeding inside. These have been a more serious problem in Northern growing regions than in the South although occasional outbreaks have caused major economic losses in both areas.

**3) Leafrollers.** Overwintering orange tortrix ([Click here for picture](#)), obliquebanded, and as yet unidentified leafrollers are being found feeding on blueberry buds in some fields.

### Cropwork:

**All Caneberries:** 1) Finish canework. 2) Can apply drench for raspberry crown borer control. 3) Can apply Ridomil for Phytophthora root rot control. 4) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 5) Scout for mouse or vole damage and bait if necessary. 6) Lime sulfur (with or without oil) can be applied for disease and mite control.

**Blueberries:** 1) Finish pruning. 2) Scout for bud damage & determine cause. 3) Dormant oil can be applied for scale and winter moth egg control before bud break. 4) Copper or Bordeaux can be applied for bacterial blight control. 5) Pre-emergent weed control can be applied. 6) Scout for mouse or vole damage and bait if necessary. 7) Scout for mummyberries.

**Strawberries:** 1) Scout for root weevil larvae and strawberry crown borer in weak growth areas. 2) Can apply Devrinol (napropamide) for weed control. Make sure it'll get rained in.

**Cranberries:** 1) Prune vines. 2) Weed control.

### Weather for the week:

**(South):** Showers early in the week turning to rain later. Windy by next weekend. Highs around 45. Lows 30-35. Snow coming down to 1500 feet.

**(North):** Showers and breezy. Highs 40-45. Lows 30-35. Snow coming down to 500 feet.

**Calendar:**

**March 3-5 A Fruit and Vegetable Processing Short Course** will be held at OSU campus. Click [here](#) for details.

**March 7 A Weekly Grower Meeting in Woodland** takes place at the Oak Tree at 7 AM. Call Tom at 503-289-7287 or email for information.

**March 11 Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission Meeting** will be at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, OR at 11:00 am. For information call 541-758-4043 or [e-mail](#)

**March 13 Lingonberry Conference** at the National Germplasm Repository, Peoria Road, Corvallis, Or. Call Ross or Linda at 541-682-7308 for information.

**March 19 WSU Extension Workshop for Berry Growers**, Vancouver campus of WSU, Call 360-576-6030 for information. Click ([here](#)) for information.

**March 19 Washington Red Raspberry Commission meeting** will take place following the WSU grower workshop beginning around 3:00 on the Vancouver WSU campus. Call Henry at 360-354-8767 for more information.

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Note: We've heard from a few folks that they are unable to open the hyperlinks (printed in blue). A possible cause is an older email program being unable to read this formatted Update. The solution, as it usually is with technology, is to update or upgrade the email program. The latest versions of both Microsoft Explorer and Netscape can be downloaded free from the Internet and they come with free up-to-date email programs.

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